

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PALERM 00138 071530Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 OMB-01 /079 W

-----071955Z 057231 /41

R 041100Z MAR 77

FM AMCONGEN PALERMO

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2007

INFO RUFHOM /AMEMB ROME IT 0857

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PALERMO 0138

E.O. 11652: N/A;TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: EFFERVESCENCE IN THE SICILIAN PCI

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE RESIGNATION FROM THE PALERMO CITY COUNCIL OF TWO FAMED SICILIAN ARTISTS ELECTED ON THE PCI TICKET, POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE PARTY'S REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND A MOTION SPONSORED BY HALF OF THE PCI'S REGIONAL DEPUTIES IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET/EE DISSIDENTS ARE SIGNS OF EFFERVESCENCE IN THE SICILIAN PCI. END SUMMARY.
2. LEONARDO SCIASCIA IS FAR AND AWAY SICILY'S MOST RESPECTED MAN OF LETTERS. A MAN OF UNQUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY AND HUMANITY, HE STANDS FOR MANY AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE BEST THAT SICILIANS SEE IN THEMSELVES. IN HIS WRITINGS, SCIASCIA HAS ATTACKED WITH HONEST DESCRIPTION AND CONSUMMATE LITERARY SKILL ALL OF THOSE THINGS WHICH SICILIANS SEE AS

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG2380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THE WORST IN THEIR SOCIETY: THE MAFIA, ARROGANCE OF THE POWERFUL, POLITICAL CORRUPTION, ETC. SMALL WONDER, THEN, THAT SCIASCIA WAS MUCH COURTED AS AN ELECTORAL DRAWING CARD BY THE PCI WHICH FINALLY PERSUADED HIM IN 1975 TO RUN FOR (AND WIN) A SEAT IN THE PALERMO CITY COUNCIL AS AN "INDEPENDENT" ON THE PCI LIST. ALTHOUGH APPALLED BY THE COUNCIL'S OPERATIONAL STYLE (TURGID DEBATE, LENGTHY BUT INFREQUENT SESSIONS WITHOUT FINITE RESULTS), SCIASCIA FAITHFULLY SOLDIERED ON FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AS A LUCID OBSERVER OF EVENTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PALERM 00138 071530Z

THAT INCREASINGLY DEPRESSED HIM. THE FIRST PUBLIC SYMPTOMS OF HIS UNEASE CAME IN A DECEMBER INTERVIEW IN TURIN'S LA STAMPA WHICH FEW READ HERE) IN WHICH SCIASCIA SUGGESTED THAT EXPERIENCE AS A CITY COUNCILOR HAD HELD A CERTAIN FASCINATION FOR HIM AS A WRITER, BUT PROMPTED HIS DISGUST AS A CITIZEN. ON JANUARY 25, AND WITHOUT FANFARE OR ANNOUNCEMENT, SCIASCIA RESIGNED FROM THE CITY COUNCIL. IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEWS, SCIASCIA REHEARSED THE

SENTIMENTS EARLIER EXPRESSED TO LA STAMPA AND HINTED AT HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PCI COULD, OR INDEED WANTED TO, CHANGE A SYSTEM AGAINST WHICH HE HAD FOR SO LONG INVEIGHED. A PARALLEL THEME WAS SCIASCIA'S STATED MISTRUST OF THE COMPROMESSO STORICO SINCE, THROUGH HIS OWN PRISM, HE SEES THE DC AND EVERYTHING

PAGE 03 RUFRSGG2380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ASSOCIATED WITH IT AS THE SOURCE OF SICILY'S CURRENT ILLS.

3. SCIASCIA'S RESIGNATION ON NEAR-MORAL GROUNDS PROMPTED BOTH UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO RESCIND HIS ACTION AND A PURELY POLITICAL RESPONSE FROM THE REGIONAL PCI HIERARCHY. ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE BAD, REGIONAL SECRETARY ACHILLE OCCHETTO SAID THE PCI'S "RELATIONSHIP WITH SCIASCIA IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF PLURALISM. WE PARTICIPATED IN RALLIES TOGETHER, I SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND SCIASCIA AGAINST. THERE WAS NO DIVORCE OR EXCOMMUNICATION SIMPLY BECAUSE SCIASCIA HAS NEVER BELONGED TO THE CHURCH OF OUR PERSUASION. HE WENT IN AND CAME OUT AN INDEPENDENT."

4. IN A DEVELOPMENT RELATED MORE BY TIMING THAN POLITICAL CONTENT, FAMED ARTIST RENATO GUTTUSO ALSO RESIGNED THE SEAT ON THE PALERMO CITY COUNCIL TO WHICH HE WAS ELECTED IN 1975. A COMMUNIST OF NEAR-LIFETIME PERSUASION, GUTTUSO LEFT CITY HALL ONLY BECAUSE DUTIES THERE CONFLICTED WITH HIS SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL SENATE TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN ELECTED IN 1976. WHILE ANTI-PCI FORCES TRIED TO WRITE MORE INTO GUTTUSO'S ACTION THAN WAS THERE, THEY WERE ABLE BOTH IN HIS AND IN SCIASCIA'S CASE TO CHIDE THE PCI FOR PUTTING UP INDEPENDENTS, ARTISTS AND OTHERS FROM THE CULTURAL WORLD WHO WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PALERM 00138 071530Z

PAGE 04 RUFRSGG2380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

NOT PREPARED TO STAY THE COURSE.

5. AS AN ADDITIONAL ITEM, WE HAVE NOTED THAT OCCHETTO HIMSELF HAS ASSUMED A MORE ACTIVE NATIONAL ROLE SINCE HIS 1976 ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. BORN IN TURIN AND A FORMER LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH FEDERATION, OCCHETTO HAS BEEN PCI SICILIAN REGIONAL SECRETARY SINCE 1972. CURRENT RUMORS HAVE HIM LEAVING THE REGIONAL SECRETARYSHIP FOR BIGGER THINGS AT AN EARLY DATE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A TRAVELING IDEOLOGUE FOR ENRICO BERLINGUER. AS SUCH, HE HAS RECENTLY WOVEN TWO INTERESTING THEORETICAL THREADS INTO THE "COMPROMESSO" FABRIC:

- EARLY IN FEBRUARY IN A PALERMO SPEECH, OCCHETTO NOTED THAT THE HEGEMONY OF THE WORKING CLASS DID NOT NECESSARILY CLOSELY COINCIDE WITH THE HEGEMONY OF THE PCI BECAUSE THE WORKING CLASS IS ALSO REPRESENTED BY OTHER COMPONENTS OF ITALIAN SOCIETY, E.G. THE DC AND PSI.

- GRAMSCI IS NOT A BOWL FROM WHICH A RECIPE FOR EVERY OCCASION CAN BE EXTRACTED. THUS, GRAMSCI REPRESENTED ONLY A PART, NOT ALL OF THE PCI'S INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE, AND A THIRD WAY BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND SOVIET COMMUNISM REMAINS VALID.

6. OF FURTHER INTEREST IS A MOTION PUT BY 12 OF THE 24 COMMUNIST

PAGE 05 RUFRSGG2380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

DEPUTIES IN THE 90-MAN SICILIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKING REGIONAL PRESIDENT BONFIGLIO WHAT ACTION HE INTENDS TO TAKE "TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THEUSSR, OR OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, FIGHT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN THE FULL OBSERVANCE OF INDIVIDUAL AND FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES, WHICH CANNOT BUT BE THE FOUNDATION OF ANY STATE...." WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO READ A LARGER DESIGN INTO LOCAL BEHAVIOR PATTERNS, PALERMO'S DAILY GIORNALE DI SICILIA NOTED THAT EVEN THE BEST PLAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PALERM 00138 071530Z

OFTEN OPEN OUT OF TOWN.

7. IN A RELATED BUT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VEIN, WE NOTE CURRENT INDICATORS THAT PANCRAZIO DE PASQUALE, THE COMMUNIST PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, MAY STAY IN OFFICE FOR ONE-HALF OF THE ASSEMBLY'S CURRENT FIVE-YEAR TERM RATHER THAN STEP DOWN AFTER ONE YEAR PER THE ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION WHICH PROVIDED THAT OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF "CONSTITUTIONAL-ARC PARTIES" COULD ROTATE INTO THE PRESIDENCY FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS. THE ONLY POSSIBLE DETERRENT TO LONGER-TERM FOR DE PASQUALE WOULD EITHER BE HIS OWN SENSE OF PROPORTION OR HIS PROSPECTIVE CANDIDACY IN THE 1978 ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. INTERESTINGLY, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT WHO WOULD REPORTEDLY FOLLOW DE PASQUALE IN THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENCY HAS

PAGE 06 RUFRSGG2380 C O N F I D E N T I A L

AND SUGGESTED THAT THE DC ENCOURSED IT. COLLINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PALERM00138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770078-0301
Format: TEL
From: PALERMO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770392/aaaaddht.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63b9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3207057
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFERVESCENCE IN THE SICILIAN PCI
TAGS: PINT, IT, PCI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63b9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009